

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 L-03 /058 W

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R 190045Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8093

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DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MX

SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR MEXICO

1. APPARENTLY ACTING ON THE SUGGESTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BANCO DE FOMENTO COOPERATIVO, BISHOP FLORES OF SAN ANTONIO (TEXAS), THE BISHOP OF HUEJUTLA (HIDALGO, MEXICO), AND FATHER LINO GUSSONI (PROMINENT SOCIAL-ACTIVIST PRIEST WITH A ROLE IN DESMI) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR OCT. 15 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF REINSTATING U.S. FOOD AID FOR POVERTY STRICKEN REGIONS OF MEXICO. (DESMI IS A MEXICAN ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MEXICAN INDIANS.)

2. RECALLING THAT A PRIOR FOOD AID PROGRAM HAD BEEN TERMINATED IN 1965 OR 1966, BISHOP FLORES AND FR. GUSSONI DESCRIBED NEED TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POOR REGIONS OF MEXICO, AND PARTICULARLY HIDALGO, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND TO HELP REDUCE PROBLEM OF MIGRATION OUT OF AREA TO THE UNITED STATES. BISHOP FLORES RECOUNTED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL CHAPMAN OF INS WHICH HAD BROUGHT OUT COSTS OF REPATRIATING ILLEGALS AND RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THEY RETURNED

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TO U.S. THE BISHOP THOUGHT THE MONEY MIGHT BE BETTER

SPENT ON CREATING JOBS IN REGIONS FROM WHICH THE ILLEGALS CAME.

3. TO THIS END, VISITORS PRESENTED AMBASSADOR WITH MEMORANDUM DESCRIBING PROJECTS FOR HOG-RAISING CENTERS, FOR FORMING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND FOR ESTABLISHING ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTERS. MEMO CONCLUDED BY ASKING THAT USG GIVE DESMI A HAND, AND IN CASE AID WERE RESTORED, THAT IT BE CHanneled THROUGH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES WHICH HAS BEEN HELPING DESMI.

4. AMBASSADOR REPLIED SYMPATHETICALLY AND EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS FROM WHICH ILLEGALS CAME WAS CERTAINLY A MOST DESIRABLE COURSE. HE REFERRED TO PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED FROM C.R.S. PROJECTS IN MEXICO AND IN HONDURAS. AT SAME TIME, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST LIKELIHOOD OF REINSTATEMENT OF OFFICIAL U.S. AID PROGRAM, AND TO THIS END PUT IN CALL TO USAID (MR. SHAUGHNESSY). LATTER EXPLAINED PRESENT ORIENTATION OF USAID TO "MOST NEEDY" NATIONS REFLECTING DESIRES OF U.S. CONGRESS, AND THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO BUILD UP FALSE HOPES. THIS WAS CONVEYED TO GROUP WHICH EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT.

5. COMMENT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT USG UNABLE TO RESPOND TO BISHOP'S REQUESTS FOR A USAID FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE CANNOT HELP BUT AGREE THAT SOME FORM OF EMPLOYMENT CREATION IN DEPRESSED AREAS OF MEXICO WHICH ARE SOURCES OF MIGRANT WORKERS IS SUBJECT WHICH MERITS THE MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. THIS IS PRIMARILY A GOM PROBLEM, BUT ONE WHICH MERITS MORE THAN PASSING USG ATTENTION.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Film Number:** D760391-0315  
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**TAGS:** EAID, SHUM, MX, (GUSSONI, LINO), (FLORES)  
**To:** STATE  
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